

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Minutes of April 17, 2025 Meeting

The April 17, 2025 meeting of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) was called to order by the Chair at 12:33 p.m. in the Regional Board Room located at 723 Woodlake Drive in Chesapeake, Virginia with the following in attendance:

Commissioners in Attendance:

Jimmy Gray, Vice-Chair (HA)
Andrew Trivette, Treasurer (WM)
Patricia King (CH)*
Christopher Price (CH)*
Debbie Ritter (CH)*
Ella Ward (CH)
Rosylen Oglesby (FR)*
Phillip Bazzani (GL)
Carol Steele (GL)
Joel Acree (IW)
Randy Keaton (IW)
Cleon Long (NN)*
Carlos Clanton (NO)
Courtney Doyle (NO)
Jeremy McGee (NO)
Patrick Roberts (NO)

Steven Carter (PO)
David Hux (PQ)
Randy Wheeler (PQ)
Albert Moor (SU)
Lue Ward (SU)
Walter Hardy (SY)
Melissa Rollins (SY)
Stacy Cummings (VB)
Patrick Duhaney (VB)*
Worth Remick (VB)
Amelia Ross-Hammond (VB)
Joash Schulman (VB)*
Douglas Pons (WM)
Mark Bellamy (YK)*
Sheila Noll (YK)*

Commissioners Absent:

Brian Solis (CH)
Paul Kaplan (FR)
Mary Bunting (HA)
Michelle Ferebee (HA)
Michael Hipple (JC)
Scott Stevens (JC)
Alan Archer (NN)
Phillip Jones (NN)
Kenneth Alexander (NO)

Shannon Glover, Chair (PO)
William Gillette (SH)
Brian Thrower (SH)
Steven Bowman (SM)
Michael Stallings (SM)
Leroy Bennett (SU)
Bobby Dyer (VB)
Barbara Henley (VB)

Executive Director:

Robert A. Crum, Jr., Secretary

Other Participants:

Brian DeProfio (HA)*
Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky

**Late arrival or early departure*

Others Recorded Attending:

Chris Labadie and Don Rissmeyer (AMT Engineering); Sharon Anderson and Garry Harris (CAC); Maura Christian (DEQ); Matt Long (Ferguson Waterworks); Angela Hopkins (NN); JP Paige and Bryan Pennington (NO); Jeanne Hubbard (PO); Joel Rubin (Rubin Communications Group); Nicole Porter and John Rector (SU) Todd Nichols (HRMFFA); Ed Reed (Two Capital Consulting); Diane Kaufman (U.S. Senator Tim Kaine's Office); Angela Effah-Amponsah (VDOT); Trevor Metcalfe (Virginian Pilot); and Greg Grootendorst, Kelli Arledge, Shernita Bethea, Robert Cofield, Emma Corbitt, Katie Cullipher, Simone Elmore, Markay Hall, Tealen Hansen, Nikki Johnson, Whitney Katchmark, Sara Kidd, Matt Klepeisz, Andrew Margason, Ben McFarlane, Quan McLaurin, John Mihaly, Otesa Mitchell, Cynthia Mulkey, Ivy Ozmon, Pavithra Parthasarathi, John Sadler, Tammy Sommer, Jill Sunderland, Jaquil Tatum; Joe Turner, Quanda Tynes; Christopher Vaigneur, and Eric Walberg (HRPDC/HRTPO Staff)

Vice-Chair Jimmy Gray welcomed and introduced recently appointed Commission members as follows:

- Ms. Patricia King, Chesapeake City Council Member
- Mr. Lue Ward, Suffolk Vice-Mayor
- Mr. Carlos Clanton, Norfolk City Council Member
- Mr. Jeremy McGee, Norfolk City Council Member

Approval/Modification of Agenda

Vice-Chair Gray called for a motion to approve the April 17, 2025 agenda as presented.

Motion: Commissioner Ella Ward Moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Commissioner Courtney Doyle. The Motion Carried.

**Commissioner Cleon Long arrived*

Public Comments

Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC Executive Director, stated that there were no submitted public comments. He invited members of the public to address the Commission. There were no requests to provide public comment.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum referenced his monthly report in the agenda packet. He noted that HRPDC staff members would brief the Commission about recent events and invited Mr. John Sadler, HRPDC Emergency Management Administrator, to address the Commission.

Mr. Sadler announced that Ms. Tammy Sommer, HRPDC Emergency Management Grants/Project Manager, had been awarded the lifetime achievement award from the International Association of Emergency Managers. This award is presented to individuals who have a significant and lasting impact on the emergency management community. Ms Sommer was awarded for her commitment, achievements, and dedication, which are

present in her work at the HRPDC and her former jobs with the City of Hampton and Christopher Newport University.

Mr. Crum stated that the HRPDC is involved in a comprehensive public education program regarding recycling. He invited Ms. Katie Cullipher, HRPDC Principal Environmental Education Planner, to provide an update on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Recycling Education and Outreach Grant.

Ms. Cullipher began her presentation by providing background on the grant. The HRPDC was awarded \$1.96 million to expand the regional recycling education initiative with the following goals:

- Decrease municipal waste generation
- Increase recycling program knowledge and participation
- Decrease recycling contamination rates
- Increase confidence in local recycling programs

A multimodal survey was launched in March 2025 and will be used for local data collection. Additionally, the *Feet on the Street* program started on March 31, 2025. This program includes over 32,000 households in six localities. First, recycling routes and contamination rates were determined. The next step was to inform the households about the program and share information about which items can be recycled in the respective localities. The program is currently in the engagement phase, where trained groups go out ahead of the recycling trucks and inspect carts for contaminants. If there is contamination present, the materials will be logged in an app, and the cart will be tagged with a warning sticker. The data collected will help to target education efforts. If there is a second contamination instance, the cart will receive a rejection tag with a reminder about what is accepted and what the contaminant was. The households are responsible for removing the contaminants, and the cart will be emptied during the next scheduled recycling cycle.

Interactive web-based tools are also available. These web-based tools are dynamic and track disposal and recycling information. The data will be used for metrics and guidance for education efforts, with the goal of streamlining community-specific recycling information and increasing engagement and knowledge.

Ms. Cullipher thanked the locality staff for their efforts regarding environmental education. She added that recycling efforts are evolving and that outreach and building awareness about local waste management programs will help the region navigate and work toward the greater goal of waste prevention and reduction.

The full EPA Recycling Grant presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14586/041725-PDC-04_Presentation-EPA-Grant-Update-PDF?bidId=

Commissioner Debbie Ritter asked if the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) could provide a briefing regarding upcoming recycling efforts and support agreements. Mr. Crum

responded that he would contact SPSA management to make arrangements for such a briefing. He added that SPSA is working on a new technology, which would require collaboration among the localities.

Commissioner Pat King stated that there is a freeze on the EPA grants and there was a 65% decrease in federal funding for the EPA. She asked if and how that would impact the plans and goals of the environmental education efforts. Ms. Cullipher stated that as of now, this particular program is still ongoing. Mr. Crum added that he is tracking updates on a weekly basis.

Mr. Crum thanked Ms. Cullipher, Ms. Rebekah Eastep, and the locality staff for their great work.

Mr. Crum noted that local elected officials attended the meeting in the audience and asked them to introduce themselves.

- John Rector, Suffolk City Council Member
- Jeanne Hubbard, Poquoson City Council Member

**Brian DeProfio arrived*

Community Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Quan McLaurin thanked Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, former chair of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), for his dedicated service on the committee.

He reported that the CAC met on April 10, 2025 at Nauticus in Norfolk and received a briefing on the advancements at the facility and the new cruise terminal. Additionally, the CAC received briefings from Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) and the Elizabeth River Trail (ERT) Foundation. There was a conversation regarding connectivity in the region that included attracting professionals to help stem outmigration, improving the quality of life for the community members, and improving economic and health opportunities and outcomes. The CAC also discussed ways to directly support HRT to better connect the region. Lastly, he thanked CAC members for participating in the meeting and being actively engaged.

Mr. Geduldig-Yatrofsky addressed the commission and stated that it was a privilege to serve as CAC chair for the past four years. He added that he would continue to serve the region in his former capacity as a citizen activist.

Consent Agenda

Vice-Chair Gray explained that the Consent Agenda included the following items for consideration and approval:

- Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2025 Commission Meeting
- Treasurer's Report – February 2025
- Local and Regional Water Supply Planning Grants

- HRPDC 457 Deferred Compensation Plan
- HRPDC Personnel Manual Update
- Community Advisory Committee Chair Appointment

Motion: Commissioner Amelia Ross-Hammond Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as modified; seconded by Commissioner Carlos Clanton. The Motion Carried.

Potential Implications of Changing Federal Priorities to the Hampton Roads Economy

Ms. Nikki Johnson, HRPDC Regional Economist, presented an overview of the current federal presence in Hampton Roads, along with a preliminary assessment of the region's potential exposure to federal policy shifts.

An initial goal of the incoming administration was to reduce the federal workforce by 75%. The federal workforce includes 41.2% uniform personnel, 45.1% civilian employees, and 13.7% government enterprise workers. Therefore, reducing the federal workforce by 75% would require reducing uniform personnel jobs.

Two-thirds of the federal civilian employees are tied to defense-related industries. One-fifth of all federal civilian employees are concentrated in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC, with 51,769 from Hampton Roads. This equals a 5% share of the total jobs.

The federal workforce cuts are part of a bigger goal, which is federal spending reductions. Mandatory spending programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and income security programs account for over 60% of federal spending. Discretionary spending includes nondefense and defense spending that is appropriated by Congress. The net interest payments on debt accounted for 10.8% of federal spending in FY 2023.

Federal funding flows to Hampton Roads in many ways, including grants, contracts, and government transfers. Federal funding flows to local government budgets in the form of direct and pass-through aid. Pre-pandemic, federal aid accounted for 7% of local revenues; as of 2023, it was 11%. Contracts are another source of federal funding for the region, with the Department of Defense (DOD) being the major recipient with \$13.4 billion.

There were also changes in federal trade, which will have an impact on the Port of Virginia. China and Germany are the two major import and export countries. The impact of the tariffs cannot be determined as they are still under negotiations, and there are many unknowns. A tariff is a tax on the importing entity. For example, if a store buys a mattress from China to sell in their store, the tariff tax would need to be paid by the firm to the federal government. It would be up to the store whether they pass on the tax by increasing the price or reducing their profit margins.

With the shift in trade policy, the scale and size of the tariffs have weighed on consumer sentiment. The economic impact of the tariffs is still in question, but the consensus forecast by Blue Chip forecasters points to rising inflation and slower growth. This is known as stagflation, which is difficult to combat simultaneously.

Ms. Johnson concluded her presentation by summarizing the regional exposure and stated that there is a lot of uncertainty ahead. The region's reliance on federal employment and spending creates exposure to budget adjustments, though details remain uncertain. Shifts in trade policy may alter import and export flows and supply chains linked to the port and regional manufacturers. Slower international travel and visa-related headwinds could weigh on tourism and higher-ed enrollment. While the core indicator remains healthy, the data may understate evolving risks. Additionally, elevated policy uncertainty will delay business investment and consumer spending.

Commissioner Steven Carter asked that the presentation be distributed to the Commission members. Mr. Crum confirmed and added that all presentations are also posted on the HRPDC website.

Commissioner Randy Keaton asked if there was any research available regarding agricultural products, especially exports. Ms. Johnson stated that she would look into providing the data for the Commission.

The Changing Federal Priorities presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

[https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14587/041725-PDC-07 Presentation-Changing-Federal-Priorities-PDF?bidId=](https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14587/041725-PDC-07%20Presentation-Changing-Federal-Priorities-PDF?bidId=)

General Assembly Update

Mr. Crum briefed the Commission on items emerging from the General Assembly Session relative to the HRPDC/HRTPO Regional Legislative Agenda.

He stated that each year, the HRTPO and HRPDC jointly approve and adopt a regional legislative agenda intended to represent a unanimous consensus around important issues that will be advocated for at the General Assembly and with the federal partners.

Mr. Crum reported that Senator Christie New Craig and Delegate Cliff Hayes submitted budget amendments for additional funding for the HRPDC, but state funding for Planning District Commissions (PDCs) will not increase.

House Bill (HB) 2126 was left in House Labor and Commerce and did not advance. The bill would have impacted the HRPDC and local governments as it required PDCs to develop regional energy plans by July 2026 that address energy generation, storage, and use that demonstrate a meaningful contribution to the Commonwealth's energy goals. The bill would also have established a Virginia Energy Facility Review Board to provide oversight and report to the state level on how PDCs are progressing with their energy plans. There were concerns regarding provisions that could impact local zoning and permitting for energy facilities.

Mr. Crum stated that a state funding program for non-federal match to support flood relief projects was included in the regional legislative agenda. He explained that Army Corps programs require a 35% local match, which, for example, would sum up to \$900 million for

the City of Norfolk to build its flood relief project. HJ 434 was submitted by Delegates Hernandez and Feggans, passed the House and Senate. It authorizes a three-year study by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to create a methodology and criteria for state contributions to the local share of federal coastal storm risk management projects.

Commissioner Patrick Roberts stated that any locality would have difficulties meeting the non-federal match for coastal storm risk management projects. The success of the JLARC study is critical, and there is consensus that the Hampton Roads localities should participate in the study and help formulate the final recommendations.

Mr. Crum recommended correspondence to the state leadership asking that the region have active participation and representation in this process.

Vice-Chair Gray asked for a motion to initiate such correspondence.

Motion: Commissioner Ward Moved to approve to initiate correspondence to the state leadership; seconded by Commissioner Doyle. The Motion Carried.

Mr. Crum continued his presentation by pointing out that Virginia is behind the competition in preparing shovel-ready sites for economic development. Some local advancements were achieved using Go Virginia Grant funds. However, the proposed budget only includes \$20 million for economic development site preparation.

Commissioner Chris Price noted that there are different opportunities statewide for mega sites. However, it would cost millions to acquire and prepare those sites for such a project. Furthermore, just one of these projects would lose \$20 million due to inflation. He stated that Chesapeake has a site that could provide thousands of jobs and billions in investments, but without participation from the state in terms of site readiness, it will be difficult to compete with others for major manufacturing plants.

Mr. Crum stated that this would continue to be a significant issue for the region. He brought to attention that the Virginia Chamber of Commerce goes through a process called Blueprint Virginia, which is a statewide strategic plan for business development and economic growth. Recommendations from the plan will be provided to the incoming Governor in December. He added that one of their public input meetings will be hosted in Hampton Roads, and he would send information out once it became available.

Mr. Crum continued his presentation by stating that the General Assembly passed a \$15 million income-based housing down payment fund for first-time home buyers. Additionally, the budget includes language for a \$20 million rental assistance program in Northern Virginia (NOVA) and Hampton Roads based on income. Furthermore, money is proposed for an expansion of the Housing Opportunity Tax Credit Program.

HB 2466 for Transportation Funding passed the General Assembly but was vetoed by Governor Youngkin and did not advance. This bill would have created a structure for the Hampton Roads Interstate Highway Corridor Improvement Program and Fund, and the

Hampton Roads Highway Coastal Resilience Fund. Two-thirds of the funding would have supported improvements to new and existing highways connecting to or paralleling interstate highways. The remaining one-third would have supported transportation infrastructure that is at risk due to recurrent and coastal flooding.

Senator Rouse and Delegate Askew introduced HB 1982 Light Rail, which would have treated the Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) Light Rail System (Tide) consistent with other Virginia rail systems. The bill would have placed the Tide in the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund, the same funding stream as the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in Northern Virginia. This funding stream supports maintenance and component replacement of the system. However, HR 1982 was left in the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Transportation Committee.

Emergency sheltering continues to be an evolving issue. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Committee took action to request state assistance in preparing a statewide strategy to address shelter capacity, staffing, and utilization of state shelters. A letter to the leadership of the Commonwealth of Virginia dated March 13, 2025, was included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Crum reported that a meeting of the Hampton Roads Caucus has been scheduled for June 3, 2025 at the Tidewater Community College Campus in Chesapeake. More detailed information will be distributed in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Crum concluded his presentation by summarizing the steps for the next session. In the July 17, 2025 meeting, the HRPDC will begin an initial discussion on the next regional legislative agenda. Meetings to identify items will be held in August and September, and the regional legislative agenda will be presented for approval by the HRPDC and HRTPO in October.

Mr. Crum's General Assembly presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

<https://www.hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14052/011625-PDC-11%20Presentation-General-Assembly-Update-PDF?bidId=>

**Commissioners Debbie Ritter, Christopher Price, Sheila Noll, and Mark Bellamy departed*

Regional Building Parking Lot Improvement

Jill Sunderland, HRPDC Senior Water Resources Planner, briefed the Commission on the regional building parking lot improvement project. She stated that the parking lot needed maintenance and repairs. However, instead of re-paving, it was decided to re-imagine it and create an innovative demonstration project.

The following features are included in the new parking lot:

- Concrete instead of asphalt to increase the lifespan
- Precast porous concrete panels that allow the rainwater to infiltrate into the ground
- Sediment pre-treatment to keep materials out of the porous concrete panels

- Bioretention stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP)
- Native plants
- Wheel stops made of recycled tires

These features allow for the treatment of stormwater runoff, prevention of flooding, reduction of temperature, provision of pollinator habitat, reduction of carbon emissions, and the use of recycled materials. The parking lot will also include four Level 2 EV charging stations, a customized "757" bike rack, and educational signage.

Ms. Sunderland thanked the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for providing a \$675,000 grant for the project, which cost \$770,000, and thanked the following partners for their involvement:

- Maura Christian, DEQ
- Don Rissmeyer and Chris Labadie, AMT Engineering
- Matt Long, Ferguson

Lastly, Ms. Sunderland presented a time-lapse video of the parking lot project.

Commissioner Keaton asked if there are similar projects with the same parking lot design. Ms. Sunderland responded that there are innovative parking lot projects across the region. While the Regional Building parking lot is the first application of the porous panels in Hampton Roads, several projects across the Commonwealth also include them. However, she added that this is the third project in the country to implement the sediment pre-treatment strips from Ohio State University.

Mr. Crum thanked the Commission members for their support in the project and invited them to gather in the parking lot after the meeting for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new parking lot.

The Regional Building Parking Lot presentation is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

<https://hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14589/041725-PDC-09%20Presentation-Regional-Building-Parking-Lot-PDF?bidId=>

**Commissioners Patricia King, Rosylen Oglesby, Joash Schulman, and Patrick Duhaney departed*

Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Crum noted that the next Commission meetings are scheduled for May 15, 2025 and July 17, 2025. There is no HRPDC meeting scheduled for June 2025.

Advisory Committee Minutes

Mr. Crum stated that links to HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting minutes approved since the last Commission meeting were provided in the agenda packet for Commission member information.

Technical Committee Meeting Summaries

Mr. Crum indicated that summaries of HRPDC Technical Committee meetings held since the last Commission meeting were included in the agenda for Commission member information.

For Your Information

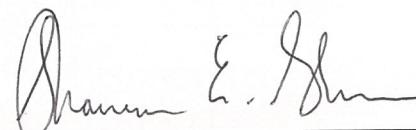
Mr. Crum referenced the correspondence of interest included in the agenda packet for Commission member information.

Old/New Business

There was no old or new business.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.



Shannon E. Glover
Chair



Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director / Secretary